

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of secure installation of vendor's software patches on client's systems, comprising the steps of:

- determining which of said software patches should be applied to said client's systems,
- collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites,
- interpreting which files will be affected by the installation of said software patches,
- interpreting which directories will be affected by the installation of said software patches,
- interpreting the operating system type, version and architecture said software patches apply to,
- interpreting dependencies on other layered products,
- interpreting how much memory and disk space is needed to install software upgrades,
- distributing said software patches to said client's systems, and
- installing said software patches.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches to client's systems, comprising the steps of:

· determining which of said software patches should be applied to said client's systems,

· collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites,

· interpreting which files will be affected by the installation of said software patches,

· interpreting which directories will be affected by the installation of said software patches,

· interpreting the operating system type, version and architecture said software patches apply to,

· interpreting dependencies on other layered products,

· determining which of vendor's upgrades and patches have been applied to client's systems,

· determining which said software upgrades and patches should be or should have been applied to said clients systems,

· collection of said patches and upgrades from said vendor's and downloading said patches and upgrades to client systems,

· interpreting the operating system type,

· interpreting the operating system version,

· interpreting the operating system architecture the patch applies to,

· determining how much memory is needed to install said patch and upgrades,

· interpreting how much memory and disk space is needed to install software upgrades and installing said software patches,

· determining how dependencies on other layered products affect the installation of said patches and upgrades,

· determining how dependencies on other patches, or software upgrades affect the installation of a patch,

· determining how dependencies on other software upgrades affect the installation of a patch,

· determining which files will be affected by the installation of a patch,

· determining which directories will be affected by the installation of a patch,

· backing-out said software patches that have been applied to said client's systems,

· checking the permissions and ownership of the files referenced in the patch and ensuring that the system software is authentic,

· distributing said software patches to said client's systems, and

· installing said software patches.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)